ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Graphic Artists at Groves

A graphic description of the Christmas and Graphic Arts Sale that was held Thursday and Friday at Groves High School is presented by George Landino, instructor in the senior art program (center) and students Cathy Flory and Ric Jones. They hold mounted samples of some of the art work offered for sale by the Graphic Arts Club, which sponsored the event.

Oakland Professor Describes the Indian Government in Book

David C. Potter, assistant professor of political science at Oakland University, is the author of a new book describing India's system of district administration.

The book, entitled "Government in Rural India," describes the division of Indian states into administrative units within which all programs of the national government are coordinated by senior officers in the Indian Administrative Service.

Called collectors, these officials must be prepared to cope with an array of problems from law enforcement and the administration of justice to economic development and crop rotation.

Potter's book also discusses the growing emphasis on local self-government—the "Panchati Raj"—and their crucial role in the development of rural India.

Published by G. Bell and Sons of London, the book is Potter's first, although he has written a number of articles for scholarly journals.

Members to Party

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Coin Club will hold its annual Christmas party for members and guests at 8 p.m. Wednesday at The Community House, Birmingham.

Members are being asked to donate a coin which will be auctioned off during the evening to help pay for the party.

Members also are requested to get their coins for the regular auction to Ray Missine as soon as possible so that he can make up the sheet for 8 p.m. Jan. 6 at The Community House.

ART FOR ART'S SAKE

By CAROLYN HALL
Special Writer

Openings Lively; BAA Had Crowd

"Art show openings are now the 'in' thing to go to," I read in some impeccable source. This surprised me since a lot of people in our town knew that already.

Evidence of this was the enthusiastic crowd at the Bloomfield Art Association Members' Show and Christmas Sale. Even if you don't plan to buy anything, or have no relative who is hung in the show (no pun intended), it is fun to meet crowds of your friends at the BAA openings.

Generally, the show was divided into three sections—well, four if you wish to count the serving table loaded with goodies. The main gallery is filled with examples of member's works, mostly paintings.

The foyer is hung floor to ceiling with Christmas sale items and the overflow fills half of the classroom area. The remaining classroom was allotted to Groves High School students whose Friday night sale was blizzarded.

Mrs. Hall

The strongest part of the Members' Show section was the water colors done by Mary Jane Bigler's class. Rosemary Stickle has improved remarkably from rather timid colors last year to some beautifully integrated works this year. Rosemary and Fred Stickle cochairmaned this show.

Bert Fish, Irene Marinovich, Nori Giffen, Marge Qualman, Eleanor Cameron and Nan Bingham were all represented by bright clear watercolors with well-designed rhythm.

* * *

GRACE FOX left the water color fold to try collage. Several others are edging into this medium, also. Her sunflowers are a lovely textured work in warm colors.

Shirley Hagman has used fused glass and crocheted rope to make a handsome sculptural hanging. Betty Foster shows a cheery "Royal Medallion" in leaded glass. It looks like a blue and green sun shining benevolently over all. Dorothy Harwood stitched two gay hangings of whimsical nature.

One curious fact that shows through this show is that most part-time painters are basically neat and inhibited. It is a real strain to cut loose and be free-swinging and purposely uncontrolled. The works that come off best in this show are done by those artists who have learned a specific skill well and work within a particular range.

Shari Brush's oil paintings for example, are professionally done, not groping nor contrived.

* * *

THE CHRISTMAS Sale has an even greater range of abilities. Many of John Glick's pots are available, representing the best work. Also exciting are some bronze jars by S. Mock, some funny woodcuts on wood by Bruce Beal and some etchings and lithographs done by the students at Cranbrook.

(Seems whenever I run across some provocative graphics done by students, they are invariably the product of Larry Barker's graphic department at Cranbrook Academy of Art.)

At this point in the column I must confess that there are just too many pieces in the show to really be intelligently selective in mentioning the best. The second time around looked like a new show, I discovered so many I'd missed. There are hundreds of art works in these shows.

* * *

BUT LEST we slight the Grove's corner, here is a group to watch. These students, Leslie Heimstadt, Kathy Flory, Bruce Brown, Sue Levan and others have talent, professional direction and their eyes on the stars.

It will be a pleasure to watch them develop into the fine artists their potential suggests.

NATURE NOW:

By LYDIA KING FRENSE
Special Writer

Chestnut Trees of Childhood Gone

One of the happy memories of this scribe's Ohio childhood involves the beauty and abundance of chestnut trees along the northern ridges bordering the Chippewa Valley.

Well - remembered are buggy rides to these hilly woods where on a hot summer afternoon the great trees made an oasis of dense and cooling shade. To a child such a trip was a pilgrimage for here my pioneer grandmother gathered handfuls of chestnut leaves.

These she rubbed to a green paste over the warts which have a way of appearing and disappearing on children's hands.

* * *

BUT THAT day is gone and so are the chestnut trees, due largely to an Asiatic fungus disease which destroyed this species throughout that portion of our land, reaching from southern Maine and Massachusetts across New York, Ohio and lower Michigan and as far west as Illinois.

Gone with the chestnut is one of our most valuable timber trees, as well as the spectacle of its splendid trunks which in our early forests reached a diameter of 12 feet. And gone is the fun of gathering the rich brown nuts, an experience which pricked our fingers but warmed our hearts!

Mrs. Frehse

* * *

THERE IS a theory that the blight came to our shores on Chinese chestnuts which are themselves generally resistant to the disease.

First detected in the New York Zoological Park, it spread westward like a fire. Nothing, including the destruction of thousands of infected trees, could stop it.

In time scientists found that the spores of this destructive fungus (Endothia parasitica) penetrate the bark at cracks and crotches of the tree where wood-boring beetles have already made lesions. Here, the invader lives and grows, killing the life-giving cambium layer.

Soon the fruiting bodies of the fungus protrude through swollen cracks in the bark, a position which enables their ripened spores to spread fresh infection with every passing breeze.

Horticulturists experimenting with the shoots that spring up around the trunks of infected trees hoped for the appearance of a resistant strain, but they have been disappointed. Hybrid strains also have been tried with little success.

* * *

THE FRUIT of the chestnut is a now seldom-seen prickly burr holding one to three nuts.

Those which you may have eaten in the "stuffing" of your Thanksgiving turkey, as well as those sold by street vendors in such cities as New York, come from cultivated Chinese chestnut trees which show a resistance to the killing blight.

The nuts are preceded by yellowish-white flowers born in catkins. They are of two kinds, both appearing on the same tree. The longer of these shows only pollen-bearing male flowers; the shorter bears both sexes within a single cluster.

The oblong lance-shaped leaves measure six-eight inches in length and are coarsely toothed with each prominent vein ending in a hair-like point. The tree can be identified in winter by slicing a cross-section of a twig which shows the star-shaped pith.

* * *

DURING OUR summers at Walloon Lake we have discovered three chestnut trees in Charlevoix County growing wild at some distance from one another.

Paul Thompson, who heads the Michigan Botanical Club's "Big Tree Project," lists a national champion of this species growing in Washtenaw County in the Waterloo Recreation Area. Its measurements: girth—184 inches, height—72 feet, spread—67 feet. But even the inquiring naturalist must look long and often to find these few remaining trees.

The soft, coarse-grained wood of the chestnut is very durable. At the time of its abundance, it was used for post holes, ties and general construction work, as well as for interior finishing lumber.

All that anyone can now write of the American chestnut is no more than an elegy to this once great member of our silva.

Pack Up Troubles

In packing any carton for a move to another location, be sure that there will be no shaking or rattling to cause damage to any of the articles. Packing experts suggest, too, that cartons be closed and sealed when packed.

Panama hats are made in Ecuador.

Christmas Story Told in Music At Christ Church

A masterpiece of the pre-Bach era, backed by near original instrumentations, is the oratorio presentation scheduled in Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, at 5 p.m. Sunday. The public is being invited to attend.

In "The Christmas Story" by Heinrich Schutz the rarely heard harpsichord and recorders will join the more conventional instruments —strings, brass, bassoon and organ—to provide the accompanying music.

"The Christmas Story" (Historia van der Gerburt Jesu Christi) features Charles Wingert, tenor of the Kenneth Jewell Chorale, as the evangelist. Russell Skitch, Detroit bass-baritone and a member of Christ Church Cranbrook choir, portrays Herod.

* * *

SOPRANO ARIAS will be sung by Phyllis Harris, Joan Rossi and Ellestine Beall, all members of the church choir. The adult choir represents the angel choir, shepherds, Wise Men, high priests and scribes.

Special guest instrumentalists include organist Harland Jylha, from Strathmoor Methodist Church, Detroit; and Mrs. Charles Wingert, a member of the Toledo Symphony, on double bass.

Conducting the oratorio is Robert Bates, organist and choirmaster of Christ Church.

Just a Moment

The December meeting of Moment Musicale will be held at the home of Martha Brown of Queensway Road, Bloomfield Hills, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. There will be a program by members of the club and a Christmas party following.

Franklin, U-M Give Concert

The Chancel Choir of the Franklin Community Church and members of the University of Michigan orchestra will present an evening Christmas concert at 8 Sunday.

Under the direction of Stephen Jones of Ann Arbor, the choir and orchestra will perform "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi, in the main sanctuary of the church.

* * *

THE "GLORIA," written about 1725, has become one of the most popular works for choruses and orchestras.

Appearing as soloists for the concert will be Karen Emens, soprano, and Dale Woliver, mezzo soprano, both of the University of Michigan.

Jones, director of the Franklin choir, is also assistant director of the Ann Arbor High School choir and a student conductor under Maynard Klein of the University of Michigan choir.

Barbara Walz also will accompany the choir and orchestra on the harpsicord.

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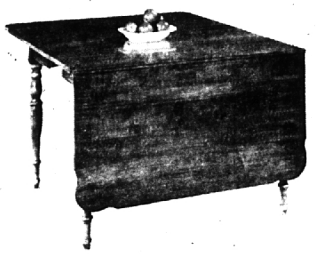

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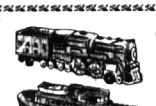

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